

REMARKS

Preliminary matters

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephone Interview held on July 25, 2008. The present Amendment is being filed with the contents of the Interview in mind.

Amendment summary

Claims 1 and 13 are amended to recite that the sprocket holes are for use in the conveyance of the film carrier tape and that the support film and the sprocket holes are not coplanar. Support for these amendments may be found, e.g., in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b).

No new matter is added by this Amendment, and Applicant respectfully submits that entry of this Amendment is proper.

Response to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Hashimoto

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,262,473) (hereinafter "Hashimoto"). Applicant respectfully submits that Hashimoto does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention because Hashimoto does not disclose or teach the presently recited sprocket holes, which are (1) not coplanar with the support film; and (2) used for the conveyance of the film carrier tape. Further, contrary to the position set forth in the Office Action, Hashimoto does not disclose or teach an insulating layer, which is recited in the present claims.

Independent claim 1 recites a chip on film film carrier tape including a continuous insulating film, a wiring pattern formed of a conductor layer provided on a surface of the insulating film, and a row of sprocket holes for use in conveyance of a film carrier tape provided

on either lateral side of the wiring pattern on which electronic devices are to be mounted, characterized in that a center section of the insulating layer other than opposite longitudinal edges where the sprocket holes are formed is provided with a support film formed on another surface of the insulating film, which surface is opposite to the surface on which the wiring pattern is provided. In addition, the support film and the sprocket holes are not coplanar.

Applicant respectfully submits that Hashimoto does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention because the “sprocket holes” cited within the Office Action do not, in fact, correspond to the presently recited sprocket holes. The “sprocket holes” in Hashimoto are merely slits or holes that allow air to escape. The “sprocket holes” in Hashimoto are not used in the conveyance of the chip on film carrier tape therein, as opposed to the sprocket holes of the presently claimed invention, which are used for the conveyance of the film carrier tape. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Hashimoto does not disclose the presently recited sprocket holes.

In addition, Applicant notes that, as can be seen from Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) in Hashimoto, the “sprocket holes” and the support film are coplanar in Hashimoto, in comparison to the presently recited sprocket holes, which are not coplanar with the presently recited support film.

Finally, Hashimoto does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention because it does not disclose an insulating layer. The Office Action sets forth the position that layer 42 in Hashimoto represents an insulating layer. However, layer 42 in Hashimoto is a resin layer that is distinct from the presently recited insulating layer. Indeed, Fig. 4(b) in Hashimoto shows that layer 42 is injected between the semiconductor chip and the film carrier tape to form a seal around the electrodes. See also column 6, lines 61-65 of Hashimoto. Accordingly,

Hashimoto does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention because it does not disclose or teach the presently recited insulating layer.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Hashimoto does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention, and respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of this § 102 rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

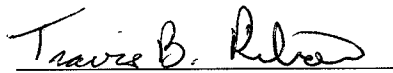
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